

## COUNTRY OF GREECE UNDER MARTIAL LAW

Elements Favoring Return of  
Constantine to Throne  
Cause Decree.

### RUMORS ARE SPREAD

False Stories Circulated in  
Attempts to Weaken Al-  
lied Cause.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press)

ATHENS, Aug. 15.—The proclamation of martial law, which is now in force by royal decree, has been adopted by the government as a means of dealing with the elements which continue to agitate in behalf of the old royalist regime of King Constantine. It is a drastic measure, suspending the constitutional guarantees of free speech, speedy trial and placing the capital and the section of Southern Greece comprised in Attica and Boetia in a state of siege and giving to the military instead of the civil authorities the safeguarding of public order. On the abdication of Constantine most of his ministers and chief officers were exiled or deprived of their functions. But it was impossible to make a clean sweep of all those friendly to the old regime, and many of the leaders, including prominent military men, remain at Athens. It is said they hold meetings at two points, one at Kaphissia, a suburb, and the other at Athens, where plots are hatched and the eventuality of Constantine's return looked forward to. While the new administration has a firm hold of affairs and is in complete accord with the Entente Allies, yet the Entente officials feel there is still a danger in the old military element which continues to agitate with the public and is even said to have some of its representatives in the entourage of the new king.

#### False Rumors Are Spread.

Martial law is expected to reach these military plotters. It is also expected to put a stop to the flood of

sensational rumor which keeps the ignorant classes and the peasantry in a continual state of unrest, with the evident purpose of making them believe that a German victory and the return of Constantine are near at hand. Some of these reports were of the fall of Verdun, the flight of the French government from Paris and a separate peace by Russia. The government and the allied diplomats are satisfied that all this is part of a systematic campaign by which the Central powers are operating through the element favorable to the late king.

An American official closely in touch with recent events tells how a report circulated that an American fleet was coming to support King Constantine. This report was widely believed and had been printed as a fact in the local press. One of the king's household met the American minister, Mr. Droppers, and said:

"At last we are to have the American fleet."

"Indeed," said the American minister, "when is it coming?"

"Very soon; it has passed Gibraltar; we have telegrams from that point."

"I am sorry to differ with you," said the minister, "but I don't believe the fleet is coming."

"Why not?" demanded the royal official.

"Because," said the minister, "if an American fleet is sent to Greece the American minister will be one of the first to know it."

This put an end to the report that the fleet was coming, and it brought about considerable coolness toward the American authorities. It is this sort of rumor, for political effect, that martial law will seek to stop.

#### Martial Law Is Rigorous.

The rigors of this martial law are indicated by the rules issued by the commanding general of the Athens district. One of the prohibitions he lays down is as follows:

"The communication in any public manner, by expose, opinion or information, of anything likely to increase in the eyes of the people the force of the enemy or to diminish our force or that of our allies, or which will attribute too much importance to the dangers of the war and the losses it involves, or inspires fear or uncertain-

ty among the people or in the army; or doubt upon a favorable issue of the war, or upon its efficacy, or upon the necessity to consent to all sacrifices in view of this issue."

Another prohibition is against expressing any "hope or tendency in favor of the reversal of the present regime." This sweeping measure puts an end to any open plottings by the

old regime, but it remains to be seen to what extent they can carry on their work in secret.

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